

BIBLE TRUTH 1, LESSON 3: PLANNER/OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

Welcome to Praise Factory: PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 1*

Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another: WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song
PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 2

Big Question Under Investigation: Big Question 8 Songs *PFI NIV Songs 8, Tracks 3,4*

Big Question Bible Verse: 1 Chronicles 16:34 Song *PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 5*

DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

Bible Truth 1: God Blesses All People with Many Good Gifts

Bible Truth Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, v.3 *PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 6*

Bible Verse: Psalm 145: 9-10,13,15-17

Bible Verse Song: The LORD Is Good to All *PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 7*

Lesson 3 New Testament: The Case of the King Who Kept His Mouth Shut
Acts 12:20-35

TAKING ACTION: Response Activities (*choose from among these activities*)

Snack and Discussion Planner: Chains and Chariots and Worms (Oh, My!)

ACTS Prayer: Prayer Sheet

Bible Truth Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Circle and Cross

Bible Truth Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, v.3 *PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 6*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign **PFI NIV Songs 8 BOOK or ONLINE**

Bible Verse Review: Psalm 145: 9-10,13,15-17 Discussion Sheet and Game: All Dressed Up

Bible Verse Song: The LORD Is Good to All Psalm 145:9,13,15-16 *PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 7*
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Mimic Me! **PFI NIV Songs 8 BOOK or ONLINE**

Story Review: Discussion Questions and Game: Basketball Toss

Case Replay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children (children do same story actions together)

Case Replay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children (children re-tell story with individual parts)

Craft: Bound by Iron Chains

VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time: Coloring Sheets (Back of Book) & Game: Hot and Cold Hide

TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions

PFI Pronto: Bible Truth 1, Lesson 3 **PFI NIV Prontos 8 BOOK or ONLINE**

The Case of the King Who Kept His Mouth Shut *Acts 12:20-35* by Connie Dever

Our story is: The Case of the King Who Kept His Mouth Shut.

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was the king? Over what was he made king?
2. What did he keep shut about? What should he have done instead?

This story takes place in Israel, in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on earth.

A Jewish prince in jail! Who could believe that! Prince Agrippa certainly couldn't. One minute he had been enjoying the company of the royal family at dinner; the next, he was thrown in prison.

It was his servant Eutyclus' fault. Months ago, Agrippa had been enjoying a chariot ride on a beautiful, pine tree-lined Via outside of Rome with his old school buddy, the Roman prince, Caligula. Agrippa and Caligula rode inside the luxurious carpentum, a chariot that was arched overhead with a covering of cloth. Eutyclus sat on the outside seat in front, driving the mules. As they rode along, Agrippa and Caligula began to talk about Caligula's great uncle, Caesar Tiberius. Tiberius was a cruel man and a bad ruler. Everyone thought it, but no one said it for fear of Tiberius' punishment. But out there alone on the road with Caligula, Agrippa spoke up: "I can't wait for old Tiberius to die! You could get rid of his grandson, then rule the Roman Empire yourself. Then the world would be happy and so would I!" Agrippa said.

Eutyclus heard every one of these dangerous words. He kept quiet until Agrippa had him arrested for stealing some of his clothes. One evening at a dinner with Tiberius and others of the royal family, Agrippa forced Eutyclus to appear before Tiberius to receive Tiberius' punishment for his theft in the most embarrassing way possible. But, the things didn't go as Agrippa planned. Eutyclus used this as a chance to tell Tiberius what Agrippa said to Caligula about him. Tiberius was furious! Guards bound him in heavy chains ride at the dinner table. They threw him in the palace prison, still in his royal robes.

For six months, Agrippa was chained to a guard in jail. He had lots to think about during that time. What a life full of good blessings he had enjoyed! He was a son of

the great, Hasmonean Jewish kings. He had been sent to Rome by his parents to be instructed by the finest teachers alongside Caligula, Claudius, and other sons of the royal Roman family. His parents had given him money to buy everything he wanted. He had a good wife and five children.

As a Jew, Agrippa knew who had given him all these good things: it was the LORD. He was the one, true God, maker of heaven and earth. He gave all people the good things they enjoyed. He gave them life, itself. What were the words of the Ashrey (Psalm 145) he had heard many godly Jews sing three times a day, every day? "Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise... One generation will commend your works to another... They will celebrate your abundant goodness... The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made... The LORD upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down... You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

Yes, Agrippa knew God had given him many good gifts, but what a mess he had made with them! He used up all his money impressing people with big parties and expensive gifts. He borrowed huge amounts of money from others...and never paid them back! He had been an honored friend of Caesar's family and now here he was in jail! Tiberius might even put him to death for his foolish words! Agrippa had used the good things God had given him to make others think he was a great man, but look at him now: a prisoner! He was lower than low.

To whom much is given, much will be required. God had given Agrippa all these good things to glorify Him. Agrippa had used them to get people to glorify himself,

Story-telling Tips

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

instead of God. A day would come when the Lord would no longer show mercy to Agrippa for what he had done with His good gifts to him; but that day was not yet. God, in His great patience and love, was going to give Agrippa more time and more good things.

Caesar Tiberius became sick and died. Agrippa's friend, Caligula became emperor. Caligula released Agrippa from prison and honored him for his loyalty. He took a golden tiara and placed it on Agrippa's head: "I crown you king over the lands from Damascus to Nabatea, your uncle Philip's territories," he told Agrippa. Then picking up a heavy, golden chain, Caligula said: "In prison, you bore a heavy chain of iron for saying I would make a better emperor than my great uncle, Tiberias. You have suffered much. Now for honoring me on that day, I honor you today. I give you this chain of gold of the same weight as the iron one you once carried."

"Ruler over my uncle Philip's lands!" Agrippa thought to himself. "And not just a ruler, but a king, with powerful to do as I like! Not even my uncle Herod Antipas is a king! This is wonderful!"

Agrippa enjoyed more riches, fame and power than ever before. Before long he had become king over all of Judea (what we call Israel), including the prize jewel: Jerusalem—home of the Temple! What a life full of good things Agrippa enjoyed! But what would he do with these good things this time? Would he choose again to glorify himself with these good gifts, or this time would he glorify the LORD?

Agrippa wanted to be a good ruler for the Jews. He pleased the Pharisees and priests by keeping all their little rules for how to live and what to eat and drink; and, by always making the right sacrifices at the Temple. He even read God's Word aloud at some of the special ceremonies. He took that great, gold chain that Caligula had given him and hung it high in the Temple Treasury room, where people's money offerings were kept, to remind people that even the greatest men may lose all they have and that God sometimes chooses to raise them back up to greatness again. He gave the Jews great gifts and protected them from their enemies. He built a very strong, new wall around Jerusalem and many other beautiful buildings and arenas for the Jews to enjoy. He punished their enemies and tried to crush

the Christians by arresting Peter and killing James. The Jews thought what Agrippa did was so wonderful that they called him: Agrippa the Great.

The Jews loved Agrippa, but God was not at all pleased. To whom much is given, much will be required. In His love, God had given Agrippa many good things to enjoy, yes; but also to glorify Him. Agrippa had used the good things God had given him to get people to glorify him, not God. Agrippa had even used his good gifts to kill the Christians and to try to stop the good news of Jesus from spreading to others. A day would come when the Lord would no longer show mercy to Agrippa for what he had done with God's good gifts given to him. That day was not far off now. Soon His patience would come to an end.

King Agrippa decided to hold a big festival to honor Caesar Claudius in the city of Caesarea, about 80 miles south of Jerusalem. There would be races and lots of fun, kind of like the Olympic Games. Agrippa would be the host in charge of the celebration. A great crowd of people gathered in the huge, outdoor arena.

Among the crowd were some people from Sidon and Tyre—enemies Agrippa had punished by keeping food from their starving people. They had come to make peace with the king. They gave Blastus, King Agrippa's servant, a generous gift that he might work something out with the king. Blastus was successful. Agrippa agreed to speak to them in the great arena on the morning of second day of the Festival.

Everyone gathered in the arena early that bright, sunny morning, and awaited for Agrippa the Great to enter, to hear what he would say to the people of Sidon and Tyre, and to begin the day's festivities. As the king entered, the crowd gasped at what they saw. Agrippa was not wearing his usual, royal robes. Instead, he seemed to dazzle with a blaze of glory. The people had never seen anything like it! They could hardly keep looking at him; he was so blindingly bright with light. From one place in the arena and then another the people began to cry out: "Be merciful to us; for although up to this time we honored you only as a man, yet now we praise you as a god!"

What would Agrippa do with the people's praises? He knew that he had no glory of his own. The splendid

brightness the people saw came from the special robe woven entirely out of silver he had made for the Festival. He knew that everything he was and he had were only good gifts from the LORD and that He alone should be worshiped. Agrippa was just a man, no matter how dazzling his clothes were--and he knew it. Here was a wonderful chance to glorify God as the only, true God and the giver of all good things. Here was a wonderful chance to encourage the crowds to see the LORD's love and goodness. But Agrippa didn't take it. He wanted to glorify himself rather than God. He said nothing about the LORD. He accepted the people's praise for himself.

To whom much is given, much will be required. God had given Agrippa so many good things with which to glorify Him. Agrippa had used them to encourage people to glorify himself, instead. Now the day had at last come when the Lord would no longer show Agrippa mercy for what he had done with the good gifts given to him. In His great mercy, God had been patient with Agrippa, now it was coming to an end. Right then and there, the LORD ordered an angel to strike Agrippa down with a terrible sickness caused by worms inside his stomach. Antipas grabbed his stomach with the sudden pain. He collapsed. His men had to carry him out. For five days Antipas suffered in agony, then God took away His last good gift to Agrippa....his very life.

Cracking the Case:

It's time to answer our Case Questions.

1. Who was the king? Over what was he made king?

King Agrippa. He was made king over all of Judah.

2. What did he keep shut about? What should he have done instead? The people praised him for being a god. He should have instead turned their praise to the Lord instead of keeping it for himself.

Something For You and Me

Our Bible Truth is:

God Blesses All People with Many Good Gifts

Our Bible Verse is: Psalm 145: 9-10,13,15-17

"The LORD is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made. All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you... The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works... The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made."

What a terrible ending to a man God had blessed with so many good things! How merciful and patient He had been with Agrippa! God gave him more and more good things. He gave him so many chances to use them to glorify Him; but Agrippa rarely did. He used them instead to glorify himself. I wonder what Agrippa thought about those last five days of his life? I hope that he repented of his sins against the Lord.

But what about you and me? Each day God, in His love, blesses us with many good gifts: friends, family, food, homes. Talents and opportunities. Bodies that move and breath; heart that can know and love God and others. What do we do with them? Enjoy them, no doubt. But who do we use them to glorify: ourselves or the LORD? Like Agrippa, there are many times we do not use the LORD's good gifts to just glorify ourselves. We should confess these sins and turn away from them. We can trust in Jesus, who came to save us even from God's punishment for them. He will forgive us. But that is not all! The LORD promises to all who trust in Him like this, He will send His Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and give them more love for Him and help them to use all God has given them to glorify Him. Let's praise God for being the loving Giver of everything good that we enjoy. Let's ask Him to send His Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, so we might truly glorify Him with them.

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

A God, we praise You for being so patient to sinners, giving them many chances to turn from their sins and turn to You in faith.

C God, we confess that many times, Agrippa, we do not honor You as we should. We like for people to honor us more than we want them to honor You.

T God, we thank You for promising to save all those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Give us grateful hearts for all You give us and to help us give You the glory for all Your goodnesses shown to us.

ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

Instructions:

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth into a prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

ADORATION:

God, we praise You for being the Giver of everything good to us all, even people who do not love You or obey You.

God, we praise You for being.....

Add your own Adorations:

CONFESSION:

God, we confess that we forget all the good things You give us each day. Many times we do not use them to glorify You. We need a Savior!

God, we have sinned against You....

Add your own Confessions:

THANKSGIVING:

Thank You, God for blessing us with so many good gifts: food, family, life, and the offer of salvation through Your Son, Jesus.

God, we thank You for...

Add your own Thanksgivings:

SUPPLICATION:

God, work in our hearts. Remind us each day of the good things You give us. Help us to be grateful for them and glorify You in the way we use them. Give us the best gift of all: the gift of being one of Your dearly loved people, when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

God, we need Your help...

Add your own Supplication:

SNEAKY SNACK

Can you figure out how this snack ties in with our case?

Snack: Chains and Chariots and Worms (Oh, My!)

Line up cheese Ritz bits or other round, golden colored cracker in a circle like the gold chain Caligula gave Agrippa OR use dinner rolls (the part-baked/full-baked potato shaped ones. Can get them from one of the big warehouse club stores ,etc) as chariots. Stick 3 teddy grahams in the top of each one as Eutychus, Caligula and Agrippa, then add small, round crackers (Ritz bits, etc.) as wheels to the chariot base, using cream cheese as "cement". Of course, there are always gummy worms to stand for the worms that Herod died from....if you dare.

This is only a suggestion. Feel free to modify. Be mindful of allergy issues among your children!

Case Tie-in: Agrippa was put in jail after he and Caligula had been overheard saying bad things about Caesar as he rode along in the chariot. Caligula later rewarded him for his loyalty. He released him from prison and gave him a golden chain. Agrippa was a Jew who grew up knowing about the LORD, the one, true God, creator and giver of all good things. He should have worshiped Him and pointed others to Him, too. But he didn't. He welcomed others to worship him as a god. God's patience was over. He had a angel strike down Agrippa with worms. Agrippa held his stomach in sudden agony and soon died.

SOUL FOOD

Food for thought during snack time

1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

God Blesses All People with Many Good Gifts

God has given many good gifts to all people--whether they love and obey Him or not. He made this beautiful world for all to enjoy. He has given each of us a heart to know and love Him and others. He has given each of us a body to do many different, wonderful things. He provides the sun and rain, the hot and cold, to grow the food we need. He keeps all living things alive each day. These are just some of the many good gifts God has blessed us with.

Why did God give us these good gifts? To enjoy them, to understand what He is like, and to glorify Him for giving them to us. Everyone should glorify God for His many good gifts given to them, but especially God's people. They enjoy the same good gifts as everyone else and far, far more. God is their Heavenly Father and they are His dearly loved children. Jesus died to save them from their sins. The Holy Spirit lives inside them and helps them to love, obey and enjoy God. And one day, they will get to live with Him forever. These are the very best gifts of all. They are gifts that can be ours even today, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.

Understanding the Bible Truth

1. Who does God bless with many good gifts? *All people.*
2. Does God bless people who do not love or obey Him with good gifts? *Yes.*
3. What kinds of good gifts does He give all people? *He gives them life, food, families, friends. He gives them many good things to enjoy. He gives them talents. He gives them bodies to use; minds to think with. He gives them the world full of amazing creatures to enjoy. He gives them a heart to know and love Him and others. He keeps the whole universe going. He gives rain, sun, hot and cold, so they can grow food.*
4. Why does God give us these good gifts? *To enjoy them and to glorify Him.*
5. What should everyone give to God for all His good gifts? *Glorify Him (praise and thank Him).*
6. Who should praise and thank God most of all? Why? *God's people. Because they enjoy the same good gifts as everyone else and far more. God is their heavenly Father; Jesus died to save them from their sins. The Holy Spirit lives in their heart to help them enjoy, love and obey God; one day, they will get to live with Him forever. These are the best gifts of all.*
7. How can we receive the best gifts of knowing God and living with Him forever? *By turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

Bible Truth Story Connection Questions

1. What good gifts did the LORD give Agrippa? *Riches, fame, and power; knowledge of His Word and how to live to please God; great patience with Agrippa, even though he misused the good gifts God gave him; another chance to use them well.*
2. How did Agrippa show that he was most interested in glorifying himself, not the LORD with the good gifts He gave him? *He kept using them to impress other people. When the people called him a god, he did not point them to the LORD, but kept the praise for himself.*
3. How are we like Agrippa? *We are tempted to use God's good gifts to glorify ourselves. We are sometimes proud and act like we are better than others because of good gifts we have and others do not have.*
4. What should we do when we act like Agrippa? *We should confess our sins to God; turn from them; and trust in Jesus to forgive us and save us. We should ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and our lives so that we will use God's good gifts to glorify Him.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 145:9-10, 13,15-17**: "The LORD is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made. All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you... The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works... The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made."?
The LORD is good to all: His people and even those who are not His people. He gives them the good things they need and enjoy. He gives them the food they need and is the one who satisfies all our desires.

Life Application Questions

1. What good gifts has God given us?
2. What does the LORD want us to give Him? *Praise and thanks for His good gifts.*
3. How does He want us to use the good gifts He's given us? *For our enjoyment; and to bring glory to His name.*
4. What is the greatest gift that God offers to us? What must we do to receive it? *Eternal life: knowing and enjoying Him forever. We must confess our sins to God; turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Truth? *Praise God for being the Giver of everything good to us all, even people who do not love Him or obey Him.*
2. What is something we can confess to God from this Bible Truth? *Confess that we forget all the good things God gives us each day. Many times we enjoy His good gifts, but do not praise Him for them or thank Him for them. We deserve His punishment. We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Truth? *Thank God for specific good things that He gives us. Thank Him for offering us forgiveness of our sins and eternal life with Him, through Jesus--the greatest gift of all.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible Truth? *We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God remind us each day of the good things He gives us. Ask Him to make us grateful for them and thank Him for them and help us to glorify Him in the way we use them.*

The Gospel

1. What is the best good thing that God gives to people? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Circle and Cross

Materials

Beanbags, 1 per child
Masking Tape
Bible Truth Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.
3. Tape a circle about 2' in diameter on the floor. Tape a large X in the middle of it.
4. Mark one team's set of beanbags with a small piece of masking tape or other distinguishing mark.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams, giving the members of each team a beanbag of the same color or marking. Have all the children stand outside of the circle, about 6' back. At your signal, have the children toss their beanbags into the circle, trying to make them land on the taped X. Count up the beanbags for each team that landed on it. That's how many points their quiz question is worth. Choose a question for each team from the bag/bowl. If a team gets it wrong, the question goes to the other team for 1 point, if they can get the correct answer. Gather up the beanbags and continue play.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Set a target number of points for the whole group. Challenge the children to see how many turns it takes score the target number of points. Once the target has been reached, start the game over and see how many turns it takes to reach the target the second time.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

Be Thou My Vision

Verse 3

O grant us grace, almighty Lord,
To read and mark your holy Word;
Its truths with meekness to receive,
And by its holy precepts live.

Words: Ancient Irish; tr. Mary E. Byrne; versified, Eleanor H. Hull

Music: Traditional Irish Melody; harm. David Evans

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 6

Understanding the Song

1. What does "heed" mean? *To pay care attention to.*
2. What does it mean NOT to heed riches? *To not care too much about them.*
3. What is "man's praise"? *When someone praises something you do as good or important.*
4. What is "empty" about man's praise? *We usually talk about a container being empty when what was in it has been finished off. But empty can also mean that something is worthless. That's how the songwriter is using empty here. It means that man's praise is worthless. Not that we shouldn't praise people when they do something good or important, but that many times people think things are good/important that God doesn't. That kind of praise is empty.*
5. What does it mean NOT to heed man's empty praise? *That it is nice when people think what we do is good/important; we should thank people for their praise; but, that we shouldn't pay too much attention to it. God's praise for what we do is what really counts.*
6. What is an inheritance? *It's something you get or will get one day because you're born into a certain family.*
7. The songwriter says that God is his inheritance, now and always. What does that mean? *It means that when he confessed his sins to God; turned away from wanting to keep sinning; and trusted Jesus as his Savior, he was born into God's family, as one of His people. There is a rich inheritance that God gives to everyone who is born into His family. Not only are they saved from God's eternal punishment for their sins, but they are filled with the Holy Spirit. They get to know and enjoy God while they still live here on earth, and face to face with Him forever, after they die. This is how God is his inheritance.*
8. What does it mean for God to be "first in our hearts?" *For us to love Him most of all and to want to do what pleases Him more than anything else.*
9. What does "art" mean? *Old English word that means "are."*
10. Who is the songwriter's treasure? *The LORD. He loves and enjoys God more than anything or anyone else.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. How does this song relate to our **Bible Truth: God Blesses All People with Many Good Gifts?** *Riches are a good gift from God. We use them to buy many good things that we enjoy. When people praise us for good/important things we do, that is a good gift from God, too. We all like to be encouraged and valued. These are good gifts, but they are not the best gift. The best gift we can have is when we become one of God's people and God, Himself, is our treasure and inheritance. That makes riches and people's praise worth almost nothing in comparison.*

Story Connection

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Agrippa was not like the songwriter of this song. He heeded riches. He heeded man's praise. He knew that the LORD had given him all the good things he enjoyed, but he did not treasure Him or make Him first in his heart. When the people praised him as a god, he did not point them to God and use it as a chance to praise God's name. Instead, he accepted their praises for himself.*

Bible Connection Question

1. What does this song have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 145: 9-10,13,15-17:** "The LORD is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made. All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you... The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works... The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made."?

God's people know that even in "scenes of deepest gloom" (hard or sad times) that God's plans stand firm. They do not need to murmur or repine (complain or stay sad) because the Lord is leading them. His plans are good and they are unfulfilling. God's people can be content because they know that His plans will succeed and one day they will see just what great things He was doing, even through their hardest or saddest of days.

Life Application Questions

1. How can our lives be affected by the message of this song? *We can praise God for giving Himself as the rich inheritance for all who confess and turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. We can ask Him to make Him the best treasure of our heart, loving Him and enjoying Him so much, that it makes riches and people's praise almost nothing in comparison.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn?

Praise God for being the High King of Heaven. We can praise Him for being the true treasure of His people.

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn?

That many times we love God's gifts better than Him. We want to enjoy the good things He can give us, but do not want to take time to know and enjoy Him, even though He is far better than all His gifts.

3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn?

We can thank God for the good gifts of riches and even the praise of men. We can thank God most of all for the great gift of being able to know and enjoy Him.

4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn?

That God would work in our hearts that we might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask Him to help us enjoy Him and know Him as our greatest treasure.

Gospel Question

1. How can we know God as our great Treasure? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who've rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son, Jesus to earth as a man to save sinners. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who's ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Song Game: Pass the Secret Sign

Materials

Sign Language signs used in song, particularly choose words with important meanings you want the children to learn, such as “grace”, “redeem”, etc.

Bag or bowl

Blindfold

Preparing the Game

1. Cut out signs and put in bowl.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well.
2. Have all the children stand in a tight circle, except one, “It,” who will stand in the middle of the circle, blindfolded.
3. Have the children in the circle to put their hands behind their backs. Choose a sign from the bag and hand to a child in the circle, still keeping hands behind their backs, not looking at the sign.
4. When “It” says “Pass the Secret Sign”, the children will begin to pass the sign around behind their backs.
5. When “It” says “Stop the Passing!” the child who has the sign freezes with the sign behind his back.
6. The child with the sign brings it around and looks at it. You can help the child practice the sign.
7. Then take the blindfold off of “It”, watch the child with the card do the sign, then have “It” guess the name of the sign. (If desired, “It” can ask another child in the circle for help with their guess.)
8. The holder of the sign then becomes “It.” Sing the song with all the signs, then repeat.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

Meditation Version: Psalm 145:9-10,13,15-17

"The LORD is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made. All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you... The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works... The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made."

Alternate Memory Version: Psalm 145: 9,16, 17

"The LORD is good to all...You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The LORD is ... loving toward all he has made."

Understanding the Bible Verse

1. How is the LORD good to all? *He blesses all people (and other creatures) with life and many good things to enjoy.*
2. What is "compassion"? *To care about what someone is feeling and going through and want to do something about it.*
3. Who does the LORD have compassion on? *All He has made.*
4. Who praises God? *All He has made.*
5. What is a saint and what does it mean that they extol the LORD? *A saint has been misunderstood by some to be only certain special Christians. But the Bible calls a saint anyone who has turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus as their Savior. It is a word used for each of God's people.*
6. What does it mean that saints extol the LORD? *Extol is another word for praise. God's people praise Him for His goodness to them.*
7. What does it mean that the LORD is faithful in all His words? *We can trust Him to keep all His promises. We can trust that what He has told us in the Bible is always true. He never lies.*
8. What does it mean that the LORD is kind in all His works? *The LORD only does good, in everything He plans and does.*
9. What does it mean for the eyes of all to look to God? *Not that they really see God, but that they depend upon Him to give them what they need to live. No one would have food if God didn't give it to them.*
10. What does it mean to give someone food at the proper time? Who does God do this for? *To give them the food they need each day as they need it. He does this for all creatures.*
11. What is a desire? Whose desires does God satisfy? *To want or hope for something. Every living thing's.*
12. Does that mean that God always gives us just what we want when we want it? *No. We are all sinful. Many times we want things that aren't best for us. God made us. He knows the perfect timing to give us good things. Sometimes we have to wait a very long time for God to give us something we desire. Sometimes He doesn't give it to us at all. But God's people trust that He knows what is best for us and really satisfies us. They know He loves them and has a good and perfect plan. They want that most of all.*
13. Does the LORD really open His hand to satisfy our desires? *No. God is a spirit. He doesn't have hands like us. This is a way of saying that God is the one who gives us the good things that satisfy our desires, just like we open our hand and give to someone else something good we have for them.*
14. What does it mean that the LORD is righteous in all His ways? *He is all good with no sin in anything He ever does. He is always loving. He never does evil in anything He gives to us.*
15. Who is God loving towards? *All He has made.*

Bible Truth Connection Question

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God Blesses All People with Many Good Gifts?** *The LORD is our creator. He made us and provides for us all. Out of His goodness, love and compassion, the LORD pours out blessings of many good things on all people as well as everything else He has made.*

Story Connection Questions

1. How does this verse relate to our story? *Even though Agrippa misused the many good gifts the LORD had given him and even wound up in prison, possibly going to be killed, the LORD showed great love, patience and compassion on him. He was not killed. He was freed from prison and given many more good gifts. But the LORD was also righteous, too. His patience came to an end when Agrippa accepted praise as a god, when he should have pointed the crowd to the LORD, the one who made them and who daily provided for their needs.*

Life Application Questions

1. What should we do when we don't get what we want, when we want it? *We should keep asking God for it or for whatever He knows will truly satisfy our desire. We should also trust in God's goodness, love and compassion. He tells us that He cares for us and that He promises to only give us what is best for us, at the best time. We shouldn't grumble, but we should praise Him for His kindness to us, even when we don't have what we want.*
2. What is the best good gift God can give us? *How can we get it? Forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. God will give this to us when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Verse?
Praise God for being the Giver of all good things. For being compassionate on all He has made.
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible Verse?
That many times we are not thankful for the good things that God gives us. Many times we just enjoy them without even thinking of Him. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!
3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Verse?
We can thank God for being good to all He has made, not just those who please Him. We can thank Him for His good gifts we have received even this past week.
4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible Verse?
We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us grateful hearts that remember to thank Him each day for the good gifts He gives us.

The Gospel

1. What is the **best** good thing that God has given people? What is the gospel?
God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: All Dressed Up

Materials

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see

Various items of clothing (shirts, hats, shoes, gloves, coats, pants, dresses, etc.), about 10 per team

Two baskets or boxes

Masking tape

Preparing the Game

1. Put the clothing items for each team in a basket/box and place at far end of relay area. Mark the starting line with masking tape.

Learning the Verse

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

Directions

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.

2. Explain the game to them as follows:

Divide the children into two teams and have them line up behind the starting line. Explain to them that they will run down to the leader at the other end of the relay area, recite the verse to him, pick out a piece of clothing and put it on. After getting it on, they are to run back to their team and sit down at the back. The next player then goes. This is repeated until all team members are dressed. The team is then to stand up, grab hands and chant the verse together. The first team to do so, wins.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split the children into teams. Instead, the children will try to beat the clock. Have the whole class say the verse before each child goes to get and put on a piece of clothing. When everyone has their costume clothes on, say the verse together one last time. Time how long it takes the children to do all of this. Repeat and see if they can do it more quickly the second time.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during

TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

The LORD Is Good to All

The LORD is good to all,
He has compassion on all He's made,
He is faithful to all His promises and loving to all
He's made.

The LORD is good to all,
He has compassion on all He's made,
He is faithful to all His promises and loving to all
He's made.

And the eyes of all look to You,
And the eyes of all look to You,
For You open Your hand,
And satisfy the desires of ev'ry living thing.
Psalm One-forty-five, nine through sixteen.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 8, Track 7

Song Game: Mimic Me!

Materials

Sign Language
Song

Preparing the Game

None.

Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Choose a person to be the leader and let them decide upon an action for everyone to do as they sing the song, such as jump on one foot, etc.
2. Sing the song while doing the chosen action.
3. Select another child to be the leader.
4. If desired, you can choose a different action for different important words in the song, such as jump on one foot when you sing the word "grace", but clap your hands when you sing the word "Jesus". Ask the children the meaning of each of the words before adding in their action.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

STORY REVIEW

Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

General Story Questions

1. What did Agrippa say that got him in such trouble with Tiberius? *Told Caligula that he looked forward to the day Tiberius would die and Caligula could get rid of his grandson and rule as Caesar, himself.*
2. Who told Tiberius what Agrippa had said? Why did he tell him? *Agrippa's servant, Eutychus. He told on him because Agrippa had him arrested for stealing some of his clothes.*
3. What did Tiberius do to Agrippa when he heard what he had said? *He had guards take him from the dinner table in his royal robes, bind him with iron chains and put him straight in prison.*
4. What good things had Agrippa enjoyed before he went to prison? The LORD had given him many good gifts? *A Jewish prince; educated in Rome with Roman princes; lots of money to have whatever he wanted; friends to the Roman royal family; good wife and 5 children; knew God's Word and about the LORD.*
5. What did Agrippa do with the good things the LORD gave him, before he went to prison? *Spent too much money on lavish parties and gifts; had to borrow lots of money from others and never repaid it; depended on his uncle Herod Antipas for money.*
6. How did the LORD show compassion, mercy and patience to Agrippa when he was in prison? *Gave him a second chance. Tiberius died and his friend Caligula became Caesar and released Agrippa. He made him king over a lot of land and gave him a gold chain as heavy as the iron one he had in prison. Later he became king over all of Judea, including Jerusalem. The LORD was giving Agrippa another chance to use these good gifts to enjoy and to glorify Him.*
7. Who did Agrippa want to please most of all, as King of Judea? *The Jews.*
8. What did Agrippa do that pleased the Pharisees and priests? *He kept all the little rules for how to live, eat and drink; he made all the sacrifices at Temple that he should; he hung the gold chain up in the Treasury as a reminder to how the LORD sometimes gives a new chance and more blessings to someone who had lost a lot.*
9. What did Agrippa do that pleased the people? *Built a new wall around Jerusalem; Built new buildings and arenas for them to enjoy; hard on their enemies, like the Phoenicians and the Christians.*
10. Who should have Agrippa tried to glorify with all the good gifts he enjoyed? *The LORD.*
11. Who did Agrippa usually glorify with all the good gifts the LORD gave him? *Himself.*
12. How did Agrippa show that he was most interested in glorifying himself, not the LORD with the good gifts He gave him? *He kept using them to impress other people. When the people called him a god, he did not point them to the LORD, but kept the praise for himself.*

Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth? *The LORD gave Agrippa many good gifts to enjoy and to glorify Him, but Agrippa used them to glorify himself instead.*

Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Psalm 145:9-10,13,15-17**: "The LORD is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made. All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you... The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works... The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made." ?

King Agrippa grew up as a Jew. He knew God's Word. He knew that it is the LORD who is the giver of all good gifts. He should have confessed the Lord's goodness, not try to get other people to glorify him. He should have thanked the Lord for His goodness to him. But Agrippa did not...and in the end, he received the Lord's punishment for his stubborn refusal to confess Him.

Life Application Questions

1. How are we like Agrippa? *We are tempted to use God's good gifts to glorify ourselves. We are sometimes proud and act like we are better than others because of good gifts we have and others do not have.*
2. What should we do when we act like Agrippa? *We should confess our sins to God; turn from them; and trust in Jesus to forgive us and save us. We should ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and our lives so that we will use God's good gifts to glorify Him.*

ACTS Questions

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story?

Praise God for being so patient to sinners, giving them many chances to turn from their sins and turn to Him in faith.

2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story?

Confess that many times, Agrippa, we do not honor God as we should. We like for people to honor us more than we want them to honor God. We deserve His punishment. We need a Savior!

3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story?

We can thank God for promising to save all those who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their own Savior.

4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story?

We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us grateful hearts for all He gives us and to help us give glory to Him for all His goodnesses shown to us.

The Gospel

1. What was the good news of Jesus that Agrippa put James and Peter in prison for telling? What is the gospel?

God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship Him and live by His good laws. But we are all sinners who have rebelled against Him. We all deserve death--God's just, eternal punishment for our sins. How terrible! But God has good news for us. In His great mercy, God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save sinners. Yes, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, left His home in heaven and became a man. He lived the perfect life that pleases God. (He's the only one who has ever done that!) He offered it up to God His Father as the perfect sacrifice for sins when He suffered and died on the cross. Then, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead in victory. He had fully paid for the sins of God's people, so they wouldn't have to! Now all who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. They will be His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. We can be God's people, too, if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior.

Game: Basketball Toss

Materials

Small basketball or other ball
3 (or 4) baskets
Paper and Marker
Masking Tape
Story Review Questions

Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Use tape to mark a free throw line. On the paper make three point values,(starting with two points and going up), one for each basket, and tape them to the corresponding basket. Set out the baskets with the one worth least points, the closest to the free throw line. The one worth the most points, set the farthest out. With younger children, make sure to set one basket so close in that they are almost guaranteed to get a basket. If desired, use the extra fourth basket to make a long bomb basket that is almost unreachable, but worth a lot of points.

Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams. Teams will take turns having one of their members make a shoot. Each child gets three tries. The highest point value being what the question will be worth. Then ask the child a Story Review question. If he gets it right, then he earns those points for his team. If the person is unable to answer the question correctly, the other team can try to answer it for half the point values. If a child does not make a basket, he can still answer a question for 1 point.

Game continues until all children get to try to make a basket, or as number of questions, time, and attention span allow. The team with the most points at the end wins.

Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Set a target point number for the group, telling them that together they are going to see how many turns it takes to reach the target number. Have the children take turns tossing the basketball(three tries each). Tally number of turns on a piece of paper. When the target number has been reached, start over and try to reach the target number in fewer turns.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN

Description: The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

Preparation

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN

Description: The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

Materials

The Case RePlay, Sr. script
White board or other large format paper
Costumes and props

Preparation

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the King Who Kept His Mouth Shut.

This story takes place in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on earth.

And now we present: "The Case of the King Who Kept His Mouth Shut."

Scene 1:

Agrippa couldn't believe that he, a Jewish prince, was in jail! On a chariot ride with his friend and school mate, the Roman prince, Caligula, he said he looked forward to the death of Caligula's great uncle, Caesar Tiberius. Then Caligula could get rid of his Tiberius' grandson and become Caesar, himself, Agrippa plotted. Eutyclus, Agrippa's servant overheard what he said and kept it secret for a time. Later Agrippa had Eutyclus put in prison for stealing clothes from him. At a dinner party with Tiberias and the royal family, Agrippa persuaded Tiberius to judge Eutyclus. But when Eutyclus told what Agrippa said, Tiberias had him bound in iron chains and taken to prison in his royal robes. Agrippa had much time in prison to think about all the good gifts the LORD had given him and how he had wasted them all on big parties and gifts; and by foolish talk. Now Tiberius might kill him.

Actions:

Scene 2:

But the LORD gave Agrippa the good gift of another chance. Tiberius died and Caligula was made Caesar. Caligula released Agrippa from prison. He placed a gold tiara on his head and made him king over his great-uncle Philip's lands. He gave him a chain of gold as heavy as the chain of iron he wore in prison. Later, he was made king over all of Judah, even Jerusalem. What would Agrippa do with all these new good gifts the LORD had given him? Agrippa went to Jerusalem to live. He tried to please the Jews. He pleased the Pharisees and the Jews by keeping all the little rules for eating and living; and, by making all the proper sacrifices. He hung up the big gold chain in the Temple Treasury to remind everyone that the LORD sometimes graciously lifts up those who fall into great failure. He pleased the people by building a big wall around Jerusalem and many other buildings for them all to enjoy. He was hard on their enemies, the Phoenicians, by keeping food from them until they did what he wanted them to do. He even tried to crush the Christians by killing James and putting Peter in prison. Agrippa pleased the Jews, but not God. He knew that Agrippa was not doing these things to glorify Him, but only himself. He was trying to stop the good news of Jesus from spreading. Soon the day was coming when He would no longer be patient when Agrippa.

Scene 3

Agrippa held a big festival of games to honor Caesar Claudius. On the second day, he came out to host the games and meet with the people of Sidon and Tyre. He came out in a robe made completely of silver and dazzled with brilliant glory. The crowd gasped in awe. They could hardly look at him, he shown so brightly. They praised him as a god. Agrippa knew he was just a man. He knew the LORD was the one, true God. He should have told everyone about the LORD and His good gifts given to him. But he did not. He accepted their praise. God's patience was over. He had an angel strike down Agrippa with worms. Agrippa held his stomach in sudden agony. His men had to take him away. For five days he suffered and then died.

Bible Truth Tie-In: The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Blesses All People with Many Good Gifts.** The LORD gave Agrippa many good gifts to enjoy and to glorify Him, but Agrippa used them to glorify himself instead.

CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the King Who Kept His Mouth Shut.

This story takes place in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story are: Eutyclus, Caligula, Agrippa, Claudius, Tiberius, the royal family, Soldiers, Priests and Pharisees, Peter and James, and the people of Tyre and Sidon

And now we present: "The Case of the King Who Kept His Mouth Shut."

Scene 1: (Beginning)

Agrippa couldn't believe that he, a Jewish prince, was in jail! On a chariot ride with his friend and school mate, the Roman prince, Caligula, he said he looked forward to the death of Caligula's great uncle, Caesar Tiberius. Then Caligula could get rid of his Tiberius' grandson and become Caesar, himself, Agrippa plotted. Eutyclus, Agrippa's servant overheard what he said and kept it secret for a time. Later Agrippa had Eutyclus put in prison for stealing clothes from him. At a dinner party with Tiberias and the royal family, Agrippa persuaded Tiberius to judge Eutyclus. But when Eutyclus told what Agrippa said, Tiberias had him bound in iron chains and taken to prison in his royal robes. Agrippa had much time in prison to think about all the good gifts the LORD had given him and how he had wasted them all on big parties and gifts; and by foolish talk. Now Tiberius might kill him.

Scene 2: (Middle)

But the LORD gave Agrippa the good gift of another chance. Tiberius died and Caligula was made Caesar. Caligula released Agrippa from prison. He placed a gold tiara on his head and made him king over his great-uncle Philip's lands. He gave him a chain of gold as heavy as the chain of iron he wore in prison. Later, he was made king over all of Judah, even Jerusalem. What would Agrippa do with all these new good gifts the LORD had given him? Agrippa went to Jerusalem to live. He tried to please the Jews. He pleased the Pharisees and the Jews by keeping all the little rules for eating and living; and, by making all the proper sacrifices. He hung up the big gold chain in the Temple Treasury to remind everyone that the LORD sometimes graciously lifts up those who fall into great failure. He pleased the people by building a big wall around Jerusalem and many other buildings for them all to enjoy. He was hard on their enemies, the Phoenicians, by keeping food from them until they did what he wanted them to do. He even tried to crush the Christians by killing James and putting Peter in prison. Agrippa pleased the Jews, but not God. He knew that Agrippa was not doing these things to glorify Him, but only himself. He was trying to stop the good news of Jesus from spreading. Soon the day was coming when He would no longer be patient when Agrippa.

Scene 3: (End)

Agrippa held a big festival of games to honor Caesar Claudius. On the second day, he came out to host the games and meet with the people of Sidon and Tyre. He came out in a robe made completely of silver and dazzled with brilliant glory. The crowd gasped in awe. They could hardly look at him, he shown so brightly. They praised him as a god. Agrippa knew he was just a man. He knew the LORD was the one, true God. He should have told everyone about the LORD and His good gifts given to him. But he did not. He accepted their praise. God's patience was over. He had an angel strike down Agrippa with worms. Agrippa held his stomach in sudden agony. His men had to take him away. For five days he suffered and then died.

Bible Truth Tie-In: The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God Blesses All People with Many Good Gifts.** The LORD gave Agrippa many good gifts to enjoy and to glorify Him, but Agrippa used them to glorify himself instead.

Bound by Iron Chains

Description

Children will make poster board iron chains with a black, flour filled balloon ball. Velcro is used to fasten the cuffs on the chains.

Materials

White poster board
 Gray/silver markers or crayons
 2 Black balloons per child
 Flour
 Cookie sheets
 Small funnel(s)
 Sticky backed velcro circles
 Packing Tape
 Stapler and Staples

Preparing the Craft

1. Cut out strips of white poster board, about ten per child, using Pattern #1 as guide.
2. If working with younger children, go ahead and fill the black balloons with flour and tie ends. Do this by blowing up the balloon and letting out the air. Then stick the funnel in the balloon and pour flour into it. Do this on top of the cookie sheet to avoid a huge mess. Tie end.

NOTE: Be careful to not fill the balloons really full. The flour will make them heavy for the poster board to bear. Alternatively, you could just not use the flour at all. Just blow up the balloons and attach them to the middle of the chain.

3. Set out other supplies.

Making the Craft

1. Show the children a copy of the craft.
2. Have the children color in the links of the chain with grey markers/crayons.
3. While the children are coloring, pass around funnel, flour, balloons and cookie sheet to children, one by one. Help them fill them, as directed above in the Craft Preparation directions.
4. Have the children make a paper chain out of the silver strips, securing them with stapler or packing tape.
5. On the last link on each end, do not use stapler or tape. Instead, use the sticky back velcro. Adjust size of these bands to fit securely on the children's wrists.
6. Attach the black ball with packing tape to the middle of the chain. Make sure that flour is off the balloon as it will make the tape lose its stick.
7. Have the children put on their chains.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

CASE CRAFT**Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

Discussion Questions

1. To what surprising place was Prince Agrippa one night during dinner? *He was taken to palace prison in his royal robes.*
2. What happened to him in the prison? *He was bound in iron chains and kept there.*
3. What had Agrippa done to get in so much trouble? *He had told Caligula that he wished Tiberias, the current Caesar would die so that Caligula could become king in his place.*
4. What is Bible Truth that we are learning? *God Blesses All People with Many Good Gifts.*
5. What does our craft have to do with our Bible Truth: God Blesses All People with Many Good Gifts? *The LORD gave Agrippa many good gifts, time after time. Even though he had been put in prison, bound by iron chains by Tiberius, the LORD gave him the good gift of another chance to use them to glorify Him when Caligula freed him.*
6. What can our craft help us remember? *God is so patient with us! He offers us new mercies, new opportunities and sometimes even new gifts each day that we can use to glorify Him. Let's ask Him to help us to glorify Him with them today!*

TAKING IT TO OTHERS**Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

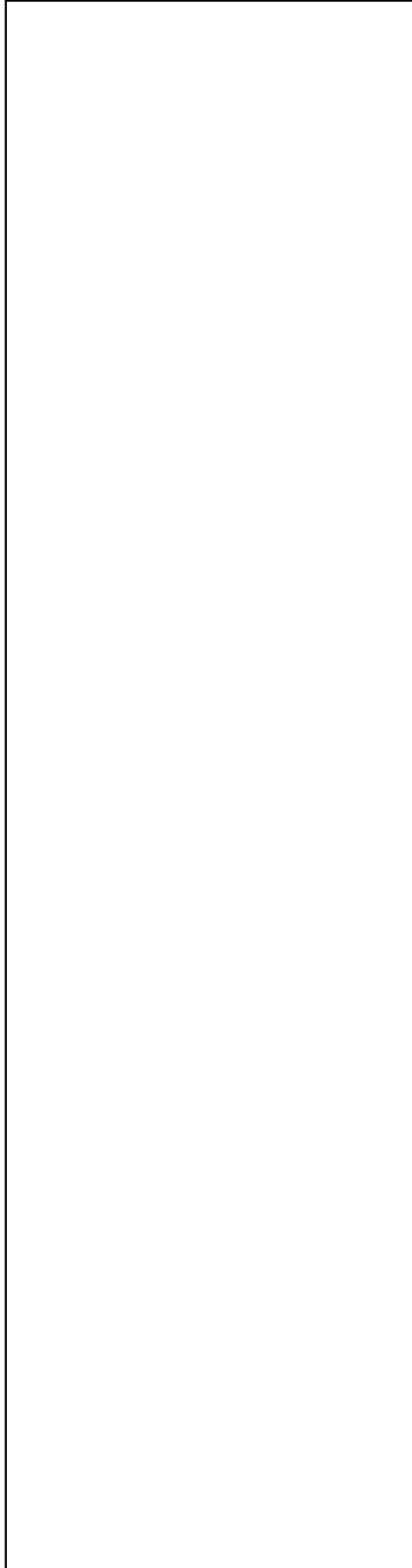
Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

Presentation:

1. Our craft is: Bound by Iron Chains
2. Down in the palace prison, Prince Agrippa sat, bound in iron chains because he told Caligula that he wished Tiberias was dead so that he might become the new Caesar.
3. Our Bible Truth is: God Blesses All People with Many Good Gifts.
4. The LORD gave Agrippa many good gifts, time after time. Even though he had been put in prison, bound by iron chains by Tiberius, the LORD gave him the good gift of another chance to use them to glorify Him when Caligula freed him.
5. Our craft can help us remember that God is so patient with us! He offers us new mercies, new opportunities and sometimes even new gifts each day that we can use to glorify Him. Let's ask Him to help us to glorify Him with them today!

Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.

Craft Pattern #1
Link Template



BEFORE CLASS:**1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (aka missionaries), and Church Members.

2. GATHER YOUR FACTS

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

DURING THE ACTIVITY:**1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Check out the list of common VIPPs on the Praise Factory website in the PFI resources. There are lots of kid-friendly descriptions for common VIPP's, such as pastors, elders, deacons and a lot more.

2. PRAY!

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

VIPP Clue Cards: These are nine coloring sheets in which children fill in the nine things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire. Clue Cards found at the back of this book.

VIPP Game: This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at praisefactory.org with the resources for this Bible Truth.

Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

Game: Hot and Cold Hide

Materials

Information Sheet for one VIPP
2 Set of Clue Cards
8 8.5" x 11" Manilla Envelopes
Blindfold

Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for the VIPP you are using.
2. Tape the other (blank) set of Clue Cards to the outside of the manilla envelopes.
3. Put the filled-in clue cards in the corresponding envelope.

Playing the Game

Reveal: Tell the children about the VIPP, showing them your filled-in clue cards as you tell about them.

Review: Choose one child to be "The Finder" and cover his eyes with the blindfold. Choose one of the Clue Card envelopes. Choose another child to be "The Hider". This child will hide the envelope somewhere in the room. When the clue is hidden, the Finder takes off his blindfold and begins to look for the envelope. The other children say "hot, cold, etc" as the child gets closer or further from the envelope to help the child find it. When the folder is found, the teacher (or the child) tells the Clue Card category. The other children try to remember what the VIPP's answer was. Open it up and see if they got it right. If they did, the Clue Card is retired. If not, it can be added back into the Clue Cards to be hidden.

VIPP INFORMATION SHEET

VIPP NAME:

WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE

Man or Woman? _____

Hair color? _____

Eye color? _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL

FAVORITE FOOD

FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY

WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK

VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Church Member | Deacon |
| Elder | Church Staff |
| Special Volunteer | Supported Worker
(Missionary) |

3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH

3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP

